

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 02934 010955Z  
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSC-05 L-03 COME-00 STR-07  
IO-13 SS-15 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 HEW-04  
CTME-00 AID-05 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00  
ICA-11 PA-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 /107 W  
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R 010810Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4360

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ETRD, SW  
SUBJECT: FLORENCE AGREEMENT PROTOCOL ANNEX E: ARTICLES  
FOR THE HANDICAPPED

REF: STATE 187912

1. SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE SWEDISH MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND THE ROYAL BOARD OF CUSTOMS WERE CONSULTED REGARDING SWEDEN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SO-CALLED "NAIROBI PROTOCOL" TO THE FLORENCE AGREEMENT, UNDER WHICH ANNEX E (II) PROVIDES THAT ADHERENTS SHALL GRANT DUTY-FREE TREATMENT FOR MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR THE PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED.

2. THE CUSTOMS OFFICIAL CONSULTED STATED HE HAD STUDIED THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE PROTOCOL IN PARIS AND WAS DEFINITELY NOT IN FAVOR OF IT. HE EXPLAINED THAT BECAUSE OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF ITEMS FOR WHICH DUTY-FREE TREATMENT IS REQUESTED, SWEDEN WOULD BE FACED WITH THE EXTREMELY AWKWARD AND ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TASK OF DETERMINING WHETHER EQUIVALENT OBJECTS ARE OR ARE NOT BEING MANUFACTURED WITHIN SWEDEN. MOREOVER, HE ADDED THAT MOST ITEMS INTENDED FOR USE BY THE HANDICAPPED ARE ALREADY  
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DUTY-FREE WHEN IMPORTED FROM TRADITIONAL SUPPLIERS IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THE EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION. ADHERENCE TO THE NAIROBI PROTOCOL WOULD THEREFORE ONLY CAUSE A LOT OF UNNECESSARY PAPERWORK AND INCONVENIENCE.

3. A HIGH-RANKING OFFICIAL OF THE SWEDISH MINISTRY OF

COMMERCE CONCURRED WITH THE VIEWS OF THE CUSTOMS OFFICIAL. HE STATED FURTHER THAT THIS MATTER IS BEING STUDIED WITHIN THE MINISTRY AND THAT NO DECISION WILL BE MADE UNTIL THE TEXT OF THE PROTOCOL HAS BEEN CIRCULATED TO ALL INTERESTED PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS FOR THEIR REACTION AND COMMENTS. THIS HAS REPORTEDLY NOT YET BEEN DONE. THEREFORE, A SWEDISH DEFINITION OF SUCH TERMS AS "HANDICAPPED PERSON," "MATERIALS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR THE HANDICAPPED" AND "EQUIVALENT PRODUCT," ETC., REMAINS IRRELEVANT AT THE PRESENT STAGE, AND THE MINCOMMERCE OFFICIAL WOULD NOT GO INTO THE MATTER.

4. WHEN TALKING TO SWEDISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, THE EMBASSY RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION THAT SWEDEN, IN GENERAL, HAS TAKEN A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD ANNEX E (II) OF THE NAIROBI PROTOCOL AND THAT, WHEN THE TIME COMES, IT WILL PROBABLY NOT ACCEPT IT. A MINISTRY OF COMMERCE OFFICIAL STATED, HOWEVER, THAT THE STAND TAKEN IN THE MATTER BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, WHEN IT HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THE PERTINENT TEXT, WILL CARRY A GREAT DEAL OF WEIGHT IN SWEDEN'S FINAL DECISION.

5. IT SHOULD BE NOTED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT EVEN THOUGH SWEDEN MAY DECIDE AGAINST ADHERENCE TO ANNEX E (88) OF THE NAIROBI PROTOCOL, SWEDEN WILL CONTINUE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WORK TOWARD ELIMINATING, OR STRONGLY REDUCING, THE CURRENT LOW CUSTOMS DUTY RATES ON MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED IMPORTED FROM NON-EC AND NON-EFTA SOURCES. PLEASE ALSO NOTE THAT COMMENTS PASSED ON ABOVE ARE PURELY PERSONAL AT THIS STAGE AND DO NOT REPRESENT AN OFFICIAL GOS POSITION. KENNEDY-MINOTT

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGREEMENT, AGREEMENTS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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